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Remarks/Arguments

In paragraph 2 of the Action, claims 2-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

In reply thereto, applicant has amended claim 2 by changing "circuits" to -chips--. In claim 7, however, Fig. 9 shows a plurality of driver circuits 121 each consisting of a shift register 121a, a latch 121b, a delay section 121c, and a drive section 121d.

In paragraph 5 of the Action, claims 2-6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plummer (US'745) in view of Tanioka et al. (US'420).

In reply thereto, applicant has amended claim 2 to define applicant's invention more clearly over the prior art of record.

As clearly defined in the amended claim, applicant's invention comprises the plurality of driver chips for driving at least two of the LEE's at different positions in the second direction with the same timing.

With respect to the prior art, Plummer discloses an electronic image recording apparatus 10 comprising a substrate 18 and light emitting diodes 26a-26x.

Tanioka et al. disclose a recording head comprising self-scanning LED chips 30-1 through 30-56 and driving IC chips 20-1 through 20-4.

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However, none of the above references disclose or suggest any plurality of driver chips for driving LEE's arranged at different positions in the second direction with the same timing such that its light emitting area overlaps portions of light emitting areas of the LEE's in the second direction.

In Plummer, the LED array chips or LED elements arranged with positional deviations are driven with different timing to compensate the positional deviation.

By contrast, according to the invention, LEE's arranged with a deviation from adjacent LEE's are driven with the same timing.

For these reasons, it is submitted that applicant's invention recited in claims 2-6 and 9 are patentable over Plummer in view of Tanioka.

In paragraphs 6^{and 7} of the Action, claims 7, 8 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As set forth above, Fig. 9 shows a plurality of driver circuits and it is believed that the claims are definite and allowable.

A two-month time extension fee is enclosed.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, claims 2-10 allowed, and the case passed to issue.

A change of correspondence address is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
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